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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Barzani says he won't give up Kirkuk - Sabah
Kurds take second in Iraqi vote count - Milliyet
Israel-Palestine summit to agree on cease-fire - Sabah
Israel believes Abbas to be targeted by assassins - Aksam
Rice assigns Gen. William Ward as coordinator for Palestine - Aksam
US to become 'very active' in the Middle East - Milliyet
Greek Cypriots threaten to veto Turkey-EU talks over recognition issue - Hurriyet
US women troops' 'mud-wrestling' scandal in Iraq - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Barzani openly claims right to Kirkuk - Cumhuriyet
Barzani goes too far, threatens to 'unite' Kurdistan - Cumhuriyet
Sunnis speed up actions after Iraqi elections: 73 killed - Cumhuriyet
Elections did not change Iraq: 65 killed in Baghdad, Mosul, Bakuba - Yeni Safak
US melts ice with Palestine - Zaman
Rice pledges \$40 million to Palestine, assigns coordinator - Radikal
Abbas, Sharon to agree on cease-fire - Zaman
Israeli minister Ramon: Abbas will be assassinated - Cumhuriyet
Rumsfeld acknowledges Iran nuclear bomb could take years - Yeni Safak
US threatens Iran, develops new nuclear warheads at home - Radikal
Sunday Times: Bush will strike Syria first, not Iran - Yeni Safak
CIA delivers terror suspects to 'contract' torturers - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Barzani Says He Will Not Concede Kirkuk: All Turkish papers cite an interview by Massoud Barzani posted on the "kerkuk-kurdistan.com" webpage in which the northern Iraqi Kurdish leader said the Iraqi elections had made clear the Kurdish identity of Kirkuk. 'We are not seeking to break off pieces of Turkey, Syria and Iran. We just want to unify our country, Kurdistan,' Barzani emphasized, adding: 'It would be to the benefit of Turkey to extend a friendly hand to the Kurds.' 'No force on earth can make me give Kirkuk away,' the KDP leader stressed, adding that Kirkuk would remain within the borders of Kurdistan.

President Sezer Warns Rice on Turkey's Secular Character: President Ahmet Necdet Sezer told visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice during her weekend visit that Turkey is a secular country and thus cannot be presented as a model of 'moderate Islam' to other Muslim nations, "Cumhuriyet" reports. 'Turkey is a country with a Muslim majority, but it is not an Islamic country,' Sezer reportedly said to Rice during their meeting on Sunday. 'Democracy cannot be imposed on Middle East countries by outside forces,' he added. Secretary Rice took note of Sezer's remarks, according to "Cumhuriyet."

US, Turkey Decide to Reinvigorate Strategic Partnership: The Islamist-oriented "Yeni Safak," a paper close to the Turkish Government, reports that the US and Turkey have agreed to revitalize their 'suspended' strategic partnership in the face of negative developments in Iraq. Secretary Rice underlined that the two countries have common strategic goals and a long history of friendship. The report claims

that the during the Rice visit, US and Turkish officials agreed to 'strategic cooperation' to protect Iraq's territorial integrity, to accelerate the struggle against terrorism, and to encourage change in the Islamic world.

'US Congressmen Launch Working Group on Turkey': US Congressmen led by Robert Wexler and Ed Whitfield will work with their Turkish counterparts to establish a 'Congressional Working Group on Turkey' in an effort to promote Turkey more effectively in the US Congress. Ruling AK Party lawmakers Egemen Bagis and Besir Hamidi, and Zeynep Damla Gurel from the opposition CHP will go to the US on Wednesday to meet with the American co-chairmen of the new grouping.

PM Erdogan on Tour of Tsunami-hit South Asia: Turkish PM Tayyip Erdogan, on a tour of south Asian countries affected by the recent tsunami, sought support from Indonesia for Turkish policy towards the divided island of Cyprus, asking Jakarta to help lift international sanctions against the Turkish Cypriot community. Indonesian President Yudhoyono pledged support for Cyprus, and for Turkey's membership in the UN Security Council. The two leaders reportedly discussed the possibility of joint projects between Muslim clerics in both countries on issues such as Islam, democracy, and terrorism. Erdogan subsequently proceeded to Malaysia.

Time Not Right For Cyprus talks - Papadopoulos: Greek Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos said on Monday that the time was 'not yet right' for negotiations with Turkey on the reunification of Cyprus. 'We are ready for talks at any time, but conditions do not exist for these talks to lead to a constructive end,' Papadopoulos told a news conference on an official visit to Hungary. Papadopoulos added he had asked UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to bring the two communities to the negotiating table.

EDITORIAL OPINION: The Visit of Secretary Rice/Iraq

"The Bells Are Still Ringing"
Haluk Ulman commented in the economic-political "Dunya" (2/8): "The US President rushed to target Syria and Iran, even before getting a clear picture of Iraq election's outcome. Iran is accused of developing nuclear weapons and supporting international terrorism. Syria is also blamed for sheltering terrorists. Unfortunately, Bush has no credibility on Iran and Syria, especially after the fabrications on the WMD issue in Iraq. . There are so many issues to sort out in Iraq, even after the questionable democratic elections. It is too early to say that Iraq is on the right track after the election process. The alarm bells are still ringing for a potential internal conflict in this country. How can the Bush administration can turn a blind eye to these facts? I think the Bush administration is aware of these problems. That is why Turkey has been back in the spotlight, and the US is looking to increase Turkish-American cooperation. Secretary Rumsfeld's recent statement should be interpreted as a warning. Apparently, he wanted to warn Turkey not to repeat the same mistake as on March 1. . The US is encouraging the Kurds in northern Iraq and turning a blind-eye to the presence of the PKK in this area. But at the same time, the US is trying to ease Turkey's concerns by talking about preserving the territorial integrity of Iraq. How can we possibly take such words seriously?"

"The Reasons for the Anti-American Atmosphere"
Sami Kohen observed in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (2/8): "In Turkey, the number of people considering the US as an enemy increases with every passing day. There are several reasons for this. The first and most important reason is the Turkish public's reaction against President Bush's policies. The image of George Bush has been turned into a stereotype that continuously incites anti-Americanism. Second, there are some US actions that have disappointed the Turks very much, especially the Suleymaniye incident and the US unwillingness to deal with the PKK and the Kurds in Northern Iraq. Such US actions are interpreted by many in the Turkish public as signs of hostile intent against Turkey. How can this be corrected? First of all, one has to believe that good relations between the US and Turkey is in Turkey's interest, and that these relations can be improved through mutual understanding and dialogue. Officials of both countries have a big responsibility to give the right messages to their people. Having disagreements on certain issues does not justify spoiling the entire friendship and thereby limiting the potential for cooperation. It is easy to spread anti-American feelings; but the more sensible thing is to act rationally."